

Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



Hamfest Special!

www.egara.club

June 2018

President - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP
Secretary - Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR

Vice-President - Nick Field, KD2JCR
Treasurer, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ

Hamfest 2018 - Rain Didn't Dampen Spirits!

Mother nature may have been less than cooperative, but she didn't stop MEGARA from putting on yet another successful Hamfest at the East Greenbush Fire Department pavilion. This year's event also produced more prize winners than ever before, with a total of five radios being awarded, along with well over a dozen door prizes!

"I think we raised the bar again this year," said EGARA President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. "In addition to once again selling out our vendor space, we had lots of great prizes and even added several new items to our menu. Plus, our members turned out strong to make set up, operations and tear down quick and easy. I'm really impressed with the support everyone gave."

Fortunately, the rain held off during the early morning hours, allowing set up to go smoothly. Early tailgaters also had the chance to sell some of their gear before the showers began. Meanwhile, the club did its best to accommodate additional vendors inside the pavilion and out of the weather.

(continued on page 2)



Steve VanSickle gives Grand Prize Winner Chris Curtis, W2CCR, his new Yaesu FT-7900 and MFJ Dual Band Antenna

EGARA "New Ham Kit" Designed to Get Them On the Air

EGARA has put together a "new ham" package to help newly licensed Amateur licensees get on the air. The package contains information specifically tailored to new Technician class operators, including how repeaters work and how to use them, as well as information on how to make contacts and some background designed to take the fear and intimidation that some new operators may have about talking with more experienced hams.

The packets will be given free of charge to new hams who get their licenses through the club's VE sessions. It will also be available to new hams who contact the club or who attend one of its monthly membership meetings. In addition to basic operating information, the packets also include a copy of the ARRL band plan, an EGARA membership form and a guide to understanding Amateur Radio RF safety.

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"New hams are often at a loss as to how to get on the air after they get their license," said EGARA President Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP. "We hope this 'new ham' kit will not only get them on the air, but also continue their interest in Amateur Radio and upgrade their license and operating privileges."

The kit will also be available on the club's web site for downloading.

New Ham Kit

Courtesy of



Information to help get you "On the Air"

Save the Date! Next Membership Meeting - June 13, 2018 at 7 pm - Field Day Planning

Hamfest 2018...

For Art Jarrett, KA1YVU, it was worth the trip from Pittsburg in northern New Hampshire.

"I've never been to your Hamfest before, but I'm glad I came because I found the radio I'd been trying to find for many years," he said. "Other Hamfests either didn't have what I wanted or were too expensive. Here, I found just what I was looking for."

Although Jarrett's long trip was notable, it was Bob Radke, WB9NEA, who apparently set this year's record. He had traveled all the way from the Milwaukee suburb of Brown Deer, Wisconsin -- a distance of nearly a thousand miles!

Also making a long trek to East Greenbush was new EGARA member Bud Shepherd, W2BUD, who braved downstate traffic to drive up from his home in Bayshore, Long Island.

The "Hamfest Special" offered at the event also produced a new member who took advantage of the reduced \$10 membership fee. He is Michael Sisno, KD2YWR, of Albany who currently holds a Tech license.

This year's EGARA Hamfest also attracted a number of new sponsors, including BTech, the official American importer of Baofeng radios. Four of Baofeng's latest Tri-Band UV-5x3 HT radios were awarded. One was given out as 1st prize to Wilbur Stukes, Jr, KC2VLD. Three others were awarded as raffle prizes. A complete list of winners is on page 4 and a list of Hamfest sponsors can be found below.

Hamfest 2018 also attracted media coverage. The Troy Record promoted it in its Community Calendar, and Channel 6 stopped by to cover the event and interview John Fritze, K2QY, ARRL's Eastern NY Section Manager and club member. John also staffed an ARRL exhibit and distributed information on Amateur Radio and League memberships.

Also new this year was free admission for both high school and college students in an effort to promote Amateur Radio to young people. Several took advantage of the offer, including the President of RPI's Amateur Radio club, Galen Gold, KB6EE (continued on page 9).

The 2018 Hamfest Honor Roll

Thanks to all the volunteers for a successful Hamfest!

- Walt Synder, Admission gate - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Bryan Jackson - Admission gate - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Dave Williams - Kitchen - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Tom Scorsone - Kitchen - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Ridge MacDonald - Cash Register
- Steve Van Sickle - PA - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Chris Linck - Talk-in - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Steve Marsh - Parking - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Paul Dahoda - Parking - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Deb Mariani - Parking - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- David Jaegar - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Peggy Donnelly - Raffle Sales - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Nick Field - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Bill Leue - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Tony Pazzola - Talk-in - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Dave Gillette - Photos - Fri staging - Sat Setup - Teardown
- Lee Hatfield - Road signage - Sat Setup
- Joe Squillace - Kitchen
- Tim Antonocci - Grill Master - Teardown
- Dave Smith - Kitchen, Sat AM Setup - Teardown
- Russ Greenman - Setup
- Al Plouff - Teardown
- Vince Gizzi - Kitchen



Many Thanks to Our 2018 EGARA Hamfest Sponsors!
Please support these companies that support us!



Hamfest Photo Gallery

Photos by Dave Gillette, KC2RPU and Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ



Russ Hangs the club banner Friday evening at the pavilion

Tommy makes a last minute check of the Hamfest food supplies



NewsCenter 6 stopped by to cover Hamfest



Walt greets a Hamfest visitor and sells a ticket to the event



Wilbur Stukes, Jr, KC2VLD, won First Prize – a B-Tech UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio



John Fritze staffs the ARRL exhibit



The kitchen crew serving up some delicious food



Rain didn't stop these hams from enjoying a day of fun and friendship --plus some good deals!



Thanks for making Hamfest 2018 a success!

KJI Electronics brought a mountain of gear and accessories



An HT Radio Check-Up

May's EGARA meeting gave members a chance to have their HT radios checked for proper operation and power output. Testing was performed by club Secretary and Elmer Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR, using an IFR 1200 spectrum analyzer, Bird wattmeter, and a DB products load resistor. These are industry standard test equipment and are used routinely in the everyday testing of commercial VHF and UHF mobile and portable radios.

In addition to spectral purity, the transmit power was measured, as well as the modulation, tone deviation, and transmit frequency error. As a bonus, receiver sensitivity was also evaluated. The results were recorded on a printed form for member's records. The idea was to verify that the radios not only met FCC requirements, but that the radio's performance met their manufacturer's listed specifications.



Steve checks out Paul Dahoda's HT radio for power, modulation and frequency stability and sensitivity

All of the radios tested met FCC spectral purity standards on the test frequency of 146.550 MHz. All of the transmit frequencies were within acceptable limits – one was “off” by a mere 20 Hz! Two radios were shown to have “low” modulation which may be increased by a user defined value set in the radio's programming software. This may be the answer to over-the-air comments like “Your audio is so low - I can hardly hear you” or “you're coming in very weak”.

One of those who was curious about the performance of his HTs was Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. He owns two Baofeng's -- a GT-5TP and a BF-F8HP. “Chinese radios often get a bad rap, so I was interested to know how good mine were. Both passed with flying colors, although the rated power output was slightly under the listed specs. Still, the GT-5TP had better frequency stability than a Yaesu HT that was also tested, so I can't complain.”

Members were pleased to have these checks performed and some said that they would like to see another round of testing at a future meeting. “It's nice to know that your HT radio is operating at its peak performance and will deliver when you need it” Steve said.

Hamfest 2018.... and the winners are...

- Chris Curtis, W2CCR - Grand Prize - Yaesu FT-7900 w/ MFJ Dual Band Antenna
- Wilbur Stukes, Jr, KC2VLD – First Prize – B-Tech UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio
 - Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP – B-Tech UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio Raffle
 - Dick Neimeyer W2ABY, B-Tech UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio Raffle
- Debbie Marsh, KC2ULU – B-Tech UV-5x3 Tri-Band HT Radio & 50/50 Raffle
 - Alex Evans, W2YJL – MFJ Car Adapter
 - Dennis Bulger, W2USN – ARRL Antenna Classics Book
 - Carl Roby, WB2TCV – ARRL Hamdbook
 - Dave Bargonie, NR2J – ARRL \$50 Gift Card
 - Glenn Cooper, W2BK – ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate
 - Richard Fortune, WA2BFI - ARRL \$25 Gift Certificate
- Don Reinsmagen, K2DGR – Quicksilver Radio Digital Voltmeter
- Steve Rosenberg, WA2TTP – Soldering Iron Set from Trojan Electronics
 - Cristina Stevens, KD2NZN – MFJ Digital Clock
- Larry Zuranin, KB2WZT - Quicksilver Radio Digital Voltmeter
- Pete Barkevich, KT2H - Quicksilver Radio Digital Voltmeter
 - Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ - MFJ Digital Clock
- Bob Reynolds, (no call given) – Gift Certificate for RF connectors
- Tim Furman, N3RBY - Quicksilver Radio Digital Voltmeter

“Alexa, Help Me with Ham Radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an Amazon Alexa for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called “Continuous Wave” (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B07C7HS47J/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_0). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
 - Words
 - Sentences
 - Call signs
 - Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
 - QSO
 - Help
- Stop – To end your session.



I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command “learn,” it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed. Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills:

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

Ham Exam (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B01N7NQ3JE/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_6&qid=1524602919). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.

Ham Lookup (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073YL88SL/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_1). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.

Ham Radio Propagation Forecast (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073THV6ZP/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_0). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH).

ARRL Audio News (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B078Y7NGYT/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_1&qid=1524750783). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

Building your own voice app on Alexa:

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at VoiceApps.Com. Two other websites—Pullstring (<https://pullstring.com>) and StoryLine (<https://getstoryline.com>)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my “No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide,” I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

EGARA May Meeting Minutes

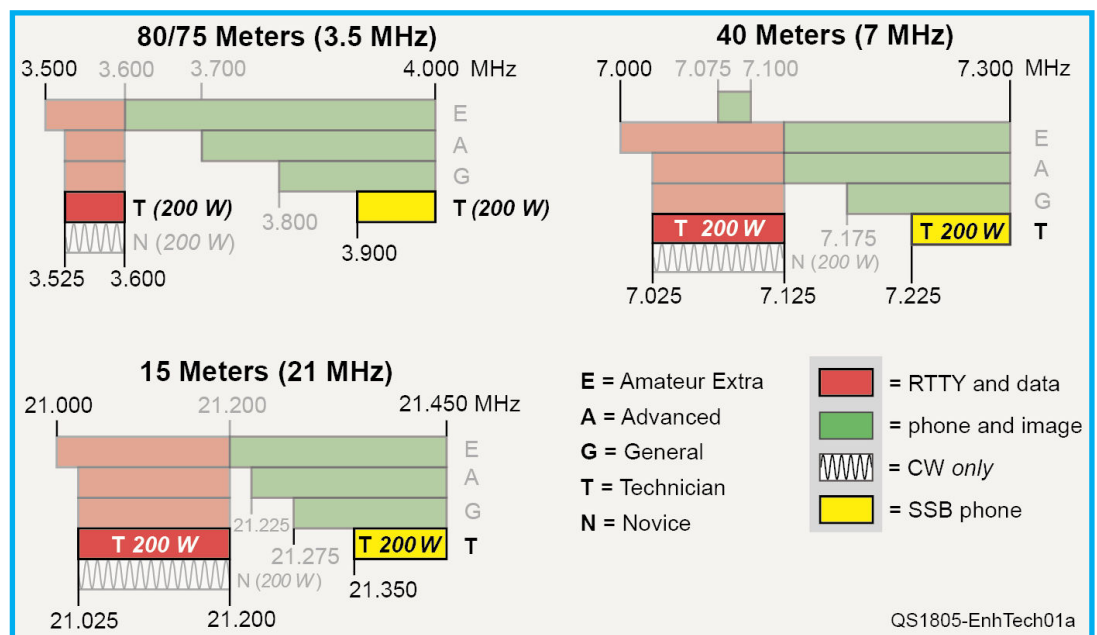
- The May meeting was called to order at approximately 7:15 pm by President Tom Scorsone;
- President Scorsone reminded members that their participation in the upcoming Hamfest was critical to its success and he requested members sign up to volunteer if they had not done so yet;
- Treasurer Bryan Jackson gave a brief Treasurer's report and announced a new member, Warren "Bud" Shepherd, W2BUD, who lives in Bayshore, Long Island. He also gave an update on the purchased of food and supplies for the Hamfest and went over the various assignments that members would be handling during Hamfest;
- It was proposed that the club offer discount \$10 memberships to Hamfest attendees. The plan was put to a vote of the members in attendance and was unanimously approved;
- A second proposal was made to offer free attendance to any high school or college student who presented their school ID as a way of promoting Amateur Radio to young people. The members in attendance also gave this idea their full support and approval. Jackson also announced that he would prepare and distribute a news release to local media announcing Hamfest and the free admission policy for students;
- The run for literacy event was successful, despite the rainy weather, many volunteers were present. There were no incidents (see story on page 9).
- Planning for Field Day (June 23/24) will begin next. We ran 24 hours last year.
- Chris Linck paid the charges for the Postal box. Chris will offer Burt Bruins' (SK) equipment for sale at the Hamfest.
- Following the officer's reports and membership votes, club Secretary Steve VanSickle presented the club's program for the evening which offered members the opportunity to have their hand-held radios checked for proper operation and power output. A number of members took advantage of the opportunity and each was given a card with their radio's tested performance specifications documented for future reference;
- The club provided pizza and refreshments and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:37 pm PM.

--de Steve VanSickle WB2HPR / Secretary

At a Glance...

ARRL has petitioned the FCC to allow current and newly licensed Technician class hams to have expanded operating privileges on the 80/75, 40 and 15 meter bands.

The chart gives a quick look at where Technician class licensees would be able to operate under the plan now being consideration.



On the Beam

News & Notes

Amateur Radio Case Attracts Attention of an FCC Commissioner

FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly has used the latest chapter of an Amateur Radio proceeding to reiterate his call that the Commission abolish its Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) system. The long-standing case involves efforts by William F. Crowell, W6WBJ (ex-N6AYJ), of Diamond Spring, California, to renew his license. Late last week, the FCC denied reconsideration of Crowell's petition to have the Commission assign a new ALJ to his case, arguing that the current ALJ, Richard L. Sippel, is biased against him. Attaching his own comments to a Memorandum and Opinion Order (MO&O) released on April 26, O'Rielly said he approved the Commission's opinion that Crowell's appeal was justifiably denied, but he expressed concern that the ALJ "took unnecessary actions" in Crowell's case and in another unrelated proceeding.



Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

"On a larger scale, complaints about the ALJ process are not isolated incidents, but paint a picture of questionable decisions coupled with an elevated level of inefficiency," O'Rielly said in comments attached to the MO&O. "It seems to me that, too often, the Commission has had to reverse the decisions of the ALJ or address one ALJ decision or another. This reality only reaffirms my call to consider eliminating the ALJ process altogether."

It has been 10 years since the FCC set Crowell's license renewal application for hearing, and nearly as long since Crowell requested disqualification of the ALJ assigned to his case. Crowell's license renewal hearing centered on whether he had violated FCC Part 97 rules by intentionally interfering with and/or otherwise interrupting radio communications, transmitting one-way communications, indecent language, and music, and whether he is qualified to be and remain a Commission licensee and have his renewal application granted.

In 2016, the FCC imposed a \$25,000 fine on Crowell for intentionally interfering with the transmissions of other radio amateurs and transmitting prohibited communications, including music. The penalty included "an upward adjustment reflecting Mr. Crowell's decision to continue his misconduct after being warned that his actions violated the Communications Act and the Commission's rules," the FCC said at the time.

"Mr. Crowell does not deny that he made the transmissions that prompted the fine, but argued, in large part, that those transmissions were protected by the First Amendment," the Forfeiture Order said.

The FCC concluded in this month's MO&O, "We have examined Crowell's claims of bias in accordance with our precedent, a task made more difficult because Crowell provides virtually no detailed factual support or references to the record for his allegations." Crowell's license, which expired in 2007, has not been renewed, but Crowell may continue to operate while his renewal application is pending.

EGARA Set to Staff "Run for Help" on June 10th

EGARA will again provide communications support for the 11th annual "Run for Help" at the Goff Middle School in East Greenbush on Sunday, June 10th. The event raises funds to benefit the Unity House Domestic Violence Services program and is held in memory of four domestic abuse victims: Liza Ellen Warner, Nikki Hart, Amber Fernald & Jamie Martin. The 5K walk/run begins with registration at 8 am and concludes at noon with an awards ceremony.

The club will use its mobile repeater system to communicate on 444.700, with a PL 94.8. Members who want to participate should email Bryan Jackson at W2RBJ@Outlook.com.

Save the Date! - 2018 ARRL Field Day is June 23-24

The History of Ham Radio: A Patriotic and Dignified Effort

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

ARRL membership was free in 1915; QST would be a new and separate entity. With a mixture of enthusiastic optimism and a strong belief in the necessity to organize hams across the country, ARRL founder Hiram Maxim was confident enough of the magazine's future to risk some of their own money (mostly Maxim's, one would think) to get it rolling. The state of the world and the country at this point made such optimism a little difficult to muster. In fact, their first issue's lead article noted the "serious national questions" pertaining to defense and predicted that radio would likely play an important, though not yet fully understood, role. They were right.

Signing as "Chairman," Maxim had written a letter that August to US Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels in which he described the ARRL and the amateurs' accomplishments in relaying messages and aiding in emergencies. Maxim offered their services to the government, believing they would be valuable assets, especially since most of the members' stations were situated along both coasts. Writing with evident pride, he explained that although the League consisted of "middle-aged men, young men, and boys" there were many amateur stations that were more capable than commercial ones. He also enclosed a current List of Stations.

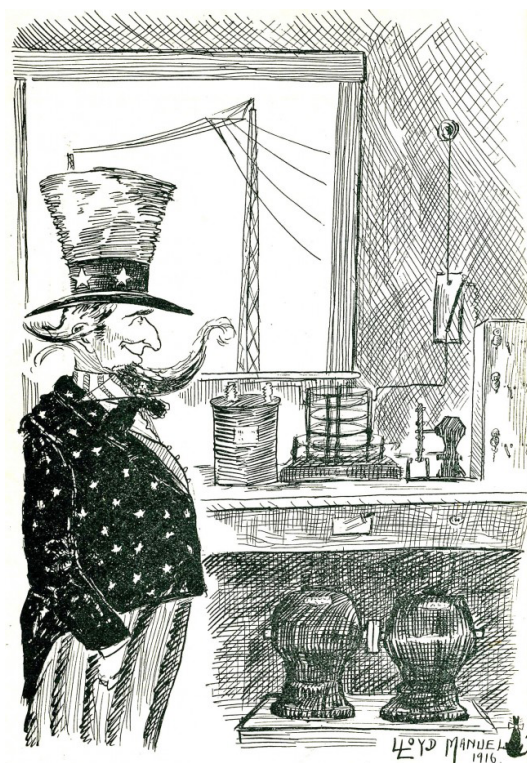
In reply, Daniels welcomed his "patriotic offer." He directed Maxim to correspond directly with the Superintendent of the Naval Radio Service, who was in charge of radio operations including how to use non-Navy facilities if necessary, and would be interested in as much detail as Maxim could supply. In particular, foreshadowing regulatory disputes yet to come, he expressed interest in "the method employed for the interior control of the amateur stations constituting the League." Daniels (whose assistant secretary at the time was Franklin Delano Roosevelt) believed that the Navy needed new technology, so he had created the Naval Consulting Board, appointing Thomas Edison as its chairman.

Maxim had also written to the Secretary of War with a similar offer. A different kind of reply came back from Lt. Col. Samuel Reber, Acting Chief Signal Officer of the Signal Corps, formally known as the U.S. Army, Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps. Reber thanked him for the letter and using very formal language said, in effect, we'll call you when and if we need you.

From the beginning, hams had a sense that with their operations and organization they could and should contribute to the public good. Maxim summarized that "the organization of our League, in efficient working form is a work which is of national importance, and we may have the knowledge that it represents a patriotic and a dignified effort."

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Judging by the letters that appeared in the second issue in January, the first issue had been received enthusiastically by the League's members. Jacob Weiss wrote the first letter to QST, calling its premiere issue "a peach," and reported some on-air activity. Robert Campbell, Jr., also wrote in to say that QST is "all to the mustard," which I suppose meant "good" since Mr. Campbell ordered a subscription and League "license." Other letters talked of stations "working" each other, so that particular term was already in use.



UNCLE SAM: "I RECKON MY AMATEURS LEAD THE WORLD."

Illustration from April 1916 QST

A Rainy Day Can't Keep EGARA Away!

A Big Crew Turns Out for the 2018 Run for Literacy

The weather was damp and the temps hovered around 60 degrees, but a hardy crew of eleven EGARA members turned out to staff communications for the annual Race for Literacy held at the Schodack State Park on May 6th. Despite the rain, some 80 runners lined up to participate in the 5K run which raised money for Rensselaer County literacy programs. The main event was preceded by a shorter children's race.

"Once again I want to thank EGARA for being our eyes and ears on the race course," said Race Director Judy Smith. "It's always reassuring to know that we have people on the course who can quickly communicate if there are any problems or injuries. Fortunately everything went smoothly this year."



Eric Shuman crosses the finish line to win the men's division

EGARA members participating in the event included: Paul Dahoda, KD2JMM; Andy Sullivan, KC2WWJ; Peggy Donnelly, KD2LMU; Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ; Russ Greeman, WB2LXC; Tom Scorsone, KC2FCP; Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR; Bill Leue, K2WML; David Jaeger, K2DEJ; Steve Marsh, KC2USX; and Debbie Mariani, KC2SQL.

Winner of the men's division was Eric Shuman of Nassau with a time of 20:10. First place in the women's division went to Sarah Miller of Niskayuna who clocked in with a time of 24:11.



David Jaeger (L) and Tom Scorsone (C) go over course assignments for EGARA members with a state park ranger

Another Hamfest Completed

(continued from page 2)

EGARA has also always prided itself on serving up great food during its Hamfests and this year was no exception. New menu items included veggie burgers, decaf coffee, tea and hot chocolate -- which was especially appropriate given the damp weather. In addition, this year's breakfast sandwiches also offered jumbo eggs, and there was a variety of fresh fruits for the health conscious. Apple pie ala mode was again on the menu... and free ice cream was handed out to kids who attended.

The club also inaugurated its new stainless steel grill (although it got a test run during April's membership meeting). The larger cooking surface allowed for up to 20 hamburgers to be cooked at one time, helping to make sure that they were served up fresh and hot. This year's 100% beef burgers were bigger too, weighing in at a full six ounces and making them even larger than a McDonald's quarter pounder.

The damp weather did put a dent in this year's attendance, with approximately 160 braving the forecast, a drop of about 25 percent from 2017. Still, the event replenished the club's treasury with enough to support another year's worth of activities without a problem.

Cleaning up after the Hamfest also went smoothly and quickly thanks to the many members who stayed to help with the teardown. Immediately after the 1 pm drawings for the Grand Prize, First Prize, and 50/50, the cleanup crew sprang into action and had the pavilion back in order in record time. Several members also were on hand at the Masonic Temple to unload Hamfest supplies and get them back into storage. By 2:30 pm, Hamfest 2018 was in the history books.

"Because we make a little money each year, we are able to keep our dues low," said club Secretary Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR. "And besides that, we have one big party for all the other hams in the area, too. This year, our set-up and tear-down was the best ever - because so many of you were there to help out. This very spirit of teamwork is what keeps organizations like EGARA vibrant and helps to ensure your club's future and the future of our hobby."

June: This Month in Radio History



June 1, 1961: FM stereo begins in United States;

June 1, 1979: Intel introduces the 8088 processor;

June 1, 1988: NRSC-2 goes into effect to establish AM transmission mask;

June 2, 1896: Marconi files full specs for first wireless patent;

June 7, 1932: FCC issues CP for WLW to build W8XO with a power of 500,000 Watts;

June 8, 1978: Intel introduces the 8086 processor;

June 14, 1922: WEAR, Baltimore, broadcasts President Harding's speech at the dedication of the Francis Scott Key Memorial, the first time a U.S. president has been broadcast live;

June 14, 1983: Docket 80-90 creates openings for new FM stations;

June 15, 1945: NBC Blue Network becomes the American Broadcasting Company;

June 15, 1946: WTOD (now WWYC) 1560 AM in Toledo, Ohio went on the air in 1946 and set a record for building out the station from Construction Permit (CP) to operational in a little over 90 days;

June 16, 1934: Armstrong transmits FM signal 70 miles from Empire State Building to Long Island;

June 19, 1934: Communications Act of 1934 creates Federal Communications Commission;

June 20, 1948: 33-1/3 rpm discs are introduced by Columbia Records;

June 23, 1891: Tesla granted patent 454,622 for the coupled tuned circuit radio-frequency oscillator;

June 24, 1910: Public Law 262, titled "Act to require apparatus and operators for radio communication on certain ocean steamers," requires Commerce Dept to license radio operators for ocean-going ships;

June 29, 1904: Edison receives a patent for the alkaline battery.

CALENDAR

June 13, 2018 - EGARA Membership Meeting - Hamfest Preparations / Test Your HT Radio - Masonic Temple, 7 pm

June 3, 2018 - VE Exam Session, 6 pm - Shaker Road Fire Department, Loudonville NY, Capital Area Radio Enthusiasts

June 10, 2018 - Run for Life, 8 am - Goff Middle School

June 23-24, 2018 - Field Day, Masonic Temple; Setup on Friday.

Pro Tip: Build a Solder Dispenser

Solder on a spool can be a pain to hold during soldering marathons. Additionally, if your solder contains lead you should minimize direct contact whenever possible. Here's a solder dispenser that can be held comfortably and doesn't need refilling every two minutes.

The basic idea is to find a plastic tube that can be comfortably held like a pen and has either a tapered end or a cap you can make a hole in, such as a tube that once held eraser refills for a mechanical pencil.

First, make the solder coil by winding it around any appropriate sized diameter, such as a screw driver, pencil, etc. Size is determined by the tube the coil will be placed in.

Now, once the solder has been wrapped many times you can slide it off your wrapping tool. Now loop one end of the solder coil through the center of the coil. By doing

this your solder will feed from the top of the coil and not become entangled at the bottom where it feeds through the opening.

That is it. A simple idea!



The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.



For Sale

- **SPECO 2 channel scope.** Good for audio work. Power cord and New probe kit included. Very clean and in good working condition. \$60.00
- **Decibel Products, DB-4072, UHF Duplexer,** with mounting brackets, A really low price. \$145.00
- **Kenwood TKR-720 VHF Repeater,** 50 Watts, \$349.00
- **50 W dummy load** with SO-239 connection. \$7.00
- **CSI 12 frequency Selector Switch, CTCSS Generator,** BNC Connector \$25.00
- **UHF RX Preamp** 3 output 1 input for multiple receivers \$25.00
- **VIZ WV-98C Senior Voltohmmyst,** Very Clean condition \$49.00

*For items above contact: John Maddalla, WB2HZT
at radiowizzz@aol.com*

- **Eldico R-104 RECEIVER,** 80-10M, \$ 300.00
- **Hammarlund HQ-170 RECEIVER,** 160 through 6 Meter receiver. Does not cover the newer WARC bands of 60, 30, 17, and 12 Meters. \$ 225.00

*For items above contact: Tom Scorsone by email at
KC2FCP@nycap.rr.com*

- **Swan 700 cx --** Immaculate condition, collector quality. Recently overhauled. Includes Shure 444 desk microphone, VX-1 VOX in factory box, very rare Model 510X external 10 pos. crystal oscillator, Model 117XC speaker/PS and original manual. Asking \$700.
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*For more info contact Steve VanSickle by email at:
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